

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving a program by a user location that is sent from a content distributor, the method comprising:
 - receiving the program at the user location as a first linearly scheduled near video on demand (NVOD) program, which is multicasted and can be viewed on a first channel;
 - processing a first portion of the program at the user location, wherein the first portion is at least one eighth of the program and the first portion includes a beginning of the program;
 - storing the first portion of the program at the user location;
 - detecting a user request for the program after storage of the first portion;
 - receiving one or more ~~[[a]]~~ second portions ~~portion~~ of the program in response to the detecting the user request, wherein the one or more second portions ~~portion~~ is received on one or more other channels, each a second channel different from the first channel, and the one or more second portions ~~portion~~ extending from an end of the first portion to an end of the program ~~comprises a remaining portion of the program subsequent to the first portion~~; and
 - storing the one or more second portions ~~portion~~ of the program at the user location subsequent to detecting the user request, wherein:
 - the first portion of the program is part of a linearly scheduled NVOD schedule on a plurality of channels,
 - the plurality of channels including the first channel and the one or more other channels ~~second channel~~, and

each of the one or more second portions ~~portion~~ is received as a singlecast media, further wherein the singlecast media is a digital channel transmitted exclusively to the user location.

2. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, further comprising playing the first portion.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 2, wherein the playing the first portion takes a first time that is equal to or greater than a second time associated with ~~the~~ receiving at least one of the one or more second portions ~~portion~~.

4. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the detecting the user request comprises:

receiving a wireless request from a remote control; and
processing the wireless request to determine a desired program.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the user location comprises a set top box.

7. (Original) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the first portion comprises storing the first portion on a mass storage device associated with a set top box that is proximate to the user location.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
determining a subset of programs from a linear schedule of programs;
dividing each of the subset of programs into a respective first portion and one or more ~~[[a]]~~ respective second portions ~~portion~~; and
transmitting a plurality of respective first portions to the user location.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting a content program to a user location, the method comprising:
determining a linear schedule of content programs wherein each content program comprises a first segment and one or more ~~[[a]]~~ second segments ~~segment, the one or more second segments extending from an end of the first segment to an end of the content program~~;
storing a second set of second segments remotely from the user location;
transmitting the linear schedule of content programs in a format that is viewable in real-time, wherein:

the linear schedule of content programs comprises a first set of first segments, and
each of the first set of first segments is at least fifteen minutes in playback length;
storing the first set of first segments at the user location before a request by a user for one of the content programs; and
transmitting one or more ~~of the second set of~~ second segments of the second set to the user location after the request by the user for one of the content programs, wherein the first segment of the requested one of the content programs extends from a beginning to an intermediate point of the requested one of the content programs, and wherein the one or more second segments extend from the intermediate point to an end of the one of the content programs,

wherein the first segment of the requested one of the content programs is transmitted on a first channel and the one or more second segments ~~segment~~ of the requested one of the content programs is transmitted on one or more other channels ~~a second channel~~, the first channel is different from the one or more other channels ~~second channel~~, at least one of the first channel and the one or more other channels ~~second channel~~ is a near video on demand (NVOD) channel, and the first set and the second set are transmitted with different media types chosen from a group of types consisting of a multicast media or a singlecast media, further wherein the singlecast media is a digital channel transmitted exclusively to the user location.

10. (Original) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 9, wherein at least one of the content programs comprises a commercial.

11. (Original) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 9, further comprising playing the first segment.

12. (Currently Amended) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 11, wherein the playing the requested first segment takes a first time that is equal to or greater than a second time associated with ~~the transmitting~~ at least one of the one or more second segments ~~the requested second segment~~.

13-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the first portion is at least one fourth of the program.

22. (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 9, wherein the first segment is at least thirty minutes in playback length.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting the content program to the user location as recited in claim 9, wherein the first-listed transmitting step is performed with a television channel media and the second-listed transmitting step is performed with a broadband network media.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more second portions comprises a plurality of portions, and wherein the one or more other channels comprise a plurality of channels ~~receiving the second portion comprises receiving a plurality of portions of the program on a plurality of channels in response to the detecting the user request, wherein the plurality of channels comprise the second channel and a third channel different than the second channel.~~

28. (Currently Amended) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of playing the first portion before the one or more second portions ~~portion~~.

29. (Currently Amended) The method for receiving a program by the user location that is sent from the content distributor as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the first-listed receiving step comprises a step of downloading the first portion from the first channel; and

the second-listed receiving step comprises a step of downloading the one or more second portions ~~portion~~ from the one or more other channels ~~second channel~~.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting a content program to a user location, the method comprising:

determining a linear schedule of content programs wherein each content program comprises a first segment and one or more ~~[[a]] second segments~~ segment;

storing a second set of second segments remotely from the user location;

transmitting the linear schedule of content programs, wherein:

the linear schedule of content programs comprises a first set of first segments, and

each of the first set of first segments is at least fifteen minutes in playback length;

storing the first set of first segments at the user location before a request by a user for one of the content programs;

transmitting one or more second segments of the second set ~~of second segments~~ to the user location after the request by the user for one of the content programs, the first segment of the requested one of the content programs extending from a beginning to an intermediate point of the requested one of the content programs, and the one or more second segments extending from the intermediate point to an end of the one of the content programs, wherein the first and second sets are transmitted with different media chosen from a group consisting of a multicast media or a singlecast media, further wherein the singlecast media is a digital channel transmitted exclusively to the user location;

storing the transmitted one or more ~~one of the second set of~~ second segments at the user location; and

playing the requested content program in a contiguous fashion, wherein the playing of the requested first segment of the content program takes a first time that is equal to or greater than a second time associated with ~~the~~ transmitting at least one of the transmitted ~~the~~ second segment of the requested content program.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving a program by a user location that is sent from a content distributor, the method comprising:

- receiving the program at the user location as a linearly scheduled program, which can be viewed on a channel;
- processing a first portion of the program at the user location, wherein the first portion is at least one eighth of the program;
- storing the first portion of the program at the user location;
- detecting a user request for the program after storage of the first portion; and
- receiving one or more ~~[[a]]~~ second portions ~~portion~~ of the program in response to the detecting the user request, the one or more second portions extending from an end of the first portion to an end of the program; and
- storing the one or more second portions ~~portion~~ of the program at the user location,

wherein the first portion is received with a first media type and the one or more second portions are received with a second media type, each of the first and second different media types chosen from a group of types consisting of a multicast media and [[or]] a singlecast media, and the first media type being different from the second media type, further wherein the singlecast media is a digital channel transmitted exclusively to the user location.

32. (Previously Presented) The method for receiving a program by a user location that is sent from a content distributor as recited in claim 31, wherein the one or more second portions ~~portion~~ is received as a second linearly scheduled program on a second channel different from the first channel

33. (Canceled).

34 (Previously Presented) The method for receiving a program by a user location that is sent from a content distributor as recited in claim 31, wherein at least one of the

Appl. No. 09/687,151

PATENT

Amdt. dated September 27, 2011

Reply to Office Action of May 16, 2011 and to the Advisory
Action dated August 26, 2011

Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure

– Examining Group 2424

first portion of the program and the second portion of the program is part of a near video on demand (NVOD) schedule.